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MONTANA COMMITTEE FOR THE HUMANITIES

NEWSLETTER

1579



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Summer Humanists

The work of the Montana Committee for the Humanities, a state-based program of the National Endowment for the Humanities, is rooted in the belief that the knowledge of specialists in the liberal arts, the humanities, is useful, relevant, and urgently needed in today's highly scientized and technologized society. The MCH was organized in 1972 to provide a vehicle to support and encourage the participation of academic humanists in the public policy discussion and decision-making processes of the community. For this reason public policy issues and specialists in the humanities are key elements in any project sponsored by the MCH.

Over the past three years, however, it has become increasingly clear that many full-time teachers do not have time during the academic year to do the kind of research and reflection necessary to enable them to participate most effectively in public programs for adult audiences. Because quality dialogue between professionals in the humanities and others is the heart of a humanities program, the NEH has agreed to support an experimental Summer

Humanists in Residence program during July and August of 1975.

Modeled on the artist or poet in residence concept which has been popular for the last fifteen years, this program will provide stipends for six humanists who wish to do the kind of research and writing which will prepare them to make meaningful contributions to the discussions of public policy issues funded by the MCH. The stipends will be awarded on a competitive basis to scholars who plan to reside in Montana during the summer and the coming academic year, are willing to spend the full two months doing research and writing two short papers pertinent to public policy issues of concern to Montanans, will contribute the difference between the stipend and their usual monthly salary as an in-kind match, will commit themselves to participating in at least two MCH-sponsored projects during the coming year, and will be available to groups requesting the advice of teachers in the humanities when designing a project.

Interested humanists should send a resume, three letters of recommendation, and a personal statement detailing why they are interested in
(cont. on p. 2)

YOU CAN DO IT TOO! \$100,000 Still Available

Most of the project directors and groups now receiving MCH funding had never written grant proposals before. The unique character of the National Endowment for the Humanities' state-based programs such as the Montana Committee for the Humanities is new even to veteran grant-writers.

The MCH encourages applications from any non-profit organization or ad hoc committee interested in obtaining funds to explore one or more issues of public policy related to this year's theme of "Private Rights and Public Choices," involving teachers in the humanities, public officials, and concerned citizens in discussions open to the public.

Proposed projects need not be "spectaculars" involving imported superstars or casts of thousands; the MCH is as interested in considering proposals for one-evening meetings as it is proposals for months-long series, and a proposal for one radio or TV program is as welcome as one for a 20-week series.

Last year, for example, the Montana Press Association received a grant to fund one panel discussion as a small part of their annual convention. On the other hand, the MCH also funded projects in Montana extending over several months' time and several thousand miles.

The MCH has made grants ranging in size from \$250.00 to \$20,000.00; the average grant made in the past two years has been close to \$5,000.00.

The MCH's 2-page application form plus a short written project description of three to five pages is nearly always sufficient. Drop us a note about your ideas. We'll be glad to help you prepare a proposal.



Miles City residents gathered in November to discuss questions of land use in Montana, in one of a series of nine regional land use conferences funded by the MCH.

this program, the focus of the research and writing of the two papers they would like to do over the summer, how it would relate to the MCH theme of "Private Rights and Public Choices," and how they might contribute to MCH-sponsored projects in the future. This information should be sent to the MCH by March 30, and the MCH will make a decision after April 15.

In general, the MCH will be looking for special types of humanities teachers—those who are interested in informal education, able to communicate well with adult audiences, and interested in using their academic studies to illuminate and explore the complexities of contemporary issues of public policy, such as questions of states' rights, freedom of speech, rights of minorities, land use decisions, educational policies, and similar issues of public concern.

Montana's Place In An Interdependent World

- What do international issues mean to Montanans, and how might they affect Montana's future?

- Do our value systems and public policies affect people elsewhere?

- Why have Montana cattlemen favored import quotas on beef?

- Is stripping Montana coal necessary?

- What would be the effect of larger grain shipments abroad on economic conditions in Montana and the U.S.?

- Would feeding the poor overseas increase food prices in Montana?

- Are we willing to make sacrifices to preserve human life in Africa and India?

- Is the most dangerous scarcity the scarcity of a sense of justice and compassion?

These and related questions were the focus of a public affairs forum in Missoula on February 13 and 14. The project was sponsored by the Missoula branch of the AAUW, the Cooperative Extension Service, the Kellogg Extension Education Project, and the ASUM Program Council of the University of Montana under a grant from the Montana Committee for the Humanities.

Orville L. Freeman, former Secretary of Agriculture and presently chief executive officer of Business International Corporation, New York City, gave the keynote address. A number of distinguished Montanans including Congressmen Max Baucus and John Melcher, Governor Thomas Judge, Lieutenant Governor Bill Christiansen, History Professor K. Ross Toole, Philosophy Professors Albert Borgmann and Ron Perrin,

newspaper publishers Aubrey Larson, and Duane Bowler, and Western Broadcasting Company head Dale Moore took part in discussions of the future of Montana's food and energy resources, and Montana's role in a nation and world becoming increasingly scarcity-conscious.

Have Program On Economics And Rural Cultures

In a related project also funded by the MCH through a grant to the Hill County Community Action program and the Department of Humanities at Northern Montana College, Havre, residents of the Hi-line met in Havre on February 22-23 to explore issues of economic policies, politics, and people power. Speakers included NMC Humanities Professors Bill Thackeray and Dick Vanderpool, as well as University of Montana Professor of Economics Tom Power; other out of town speakers included Vernon Bellcourt, Crow Dog, Chief Dan George, and Merle Lucas. Havre-area politicians, farmers, ranchers, and other concerned citizens also contributed to explorations of the impact of current economic situations on rural communities. Private economic rights and public needs and choices—including local, state, and federal economic policies, consumer behavior, and the economic plight of minority groups—were explored in depth during that series of discussions and workshops.

MCH Grant Criteria

The MCH is the state-based program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Committee judges applications on the basis of the following criteria which are applied to all 50 of the state-based programs supported by the NEH.

To be eligible for MCH-funding, projects should:

1. Relate to the state theme, "Private Rights and Public Choices."

The theme is not meant to limit strictly the content of programs, but is intended to give unity and coherence to the year's series of MCH-funded activities. The Committee anticipates a wide variety of possible topics to come within the general rubric of this theme. An acceptable project should, in general, deal with one or more of the three sub-categories of the theme "Private Rights and Public Choices."

(a) **human rights** (civil rights, equality, minority rights, self-

determination, rights of children, educational rights, right to medical care, right to work, etc.)

(b) **economic and environmental rights** (property rights, economic freedom, public regulation, etc.)

(c) **rights of self-expression** (censorship, academic freedom, community standards, lifestyles, etc.)

Projects exploring this theme should help to reveal the complexity of the values and conflicts involved in the exercise and interrelation of private rights and public choices. The Committee particularly welcomes project proposals which relate to Bicentennial concerns and celebrations.

2. **Centrally involve an issue or issues of public policy.** The project should focus at least in part around a specific question or set of questions about which collective judgment could be exercised. While action per se is not the aim of humanities programs, the topics discussed should be issues which could be acted upon by a group or community.

3. **Directly involve scholars in the humanities.** Academic humanists should be involved both in the planning process and in the actual conduct of the project. "Academic humanists," for the purposes of this program, are defined as teachers whose specialities lie in one of the fields specified in the enabling legislation of the National Endowment for the Humanities: "Language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism, theory and practice of the arts; and those aspects of the social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods."

4. **Be participatory in nature.** A project should in some manner promote the central program aim of stimulating dialogue among humanists and the public.

5. **Be educational in a general sense.** The project should genuinely seek to provide broad humanistic information from which participants can arrive at their own conclusions.

6. **Be directed primarily to the out-of-school adult audience.**

7. **Provide for 50 percent in matching funds or in-kind services.** In exceptional cases the Committee will consider funding projects which it believes to be of merit but which cannot meet the full matching requirement. Special justification must be provided for waiving this requirement.

New Grant Awards

In the last four months the Montana Committee for the Humanities funded the following projects:

Community Resource Teams, sponsored by the Brokedown Palace Project, Red Lodge. A series of programs focusing on public issues of concern to residents of Carbon County.

Montana Politics: A Historical Perspective, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Butte. A series of five talks by Professors Richard Roeder and Mike Malone of MSU on the history of private rights and public choices in Montana. Each talk followed by discussions of the questions raised.

Children, Men, and Women: Private Rights and Public Choices, sponsored by the Billings Coalition for Women's Rights. A one-day conference, with keynote speeches by John Holt of Boston, Massachusetts; Joan Uda of the University of Montana; and Robert Van Dellan of Rocky Mountain College.

Focus on Women, sponsored by the Ad Hoc Committee to Focus on Women, Bozeman. A six-week series of workshops in February and March to explore historical, legal, and social policies and choices affecting women today.

Recession and Rural Cultures, sponsored by the Hill County Community Action Program and the Humanities Department of Northern Montana College. Described on page 2 of this newsletter.

Private Rights and Public Choices in the Legislature, sponsored by the Cultural Improvement Committee of the Bitter Root RC&D. A series of four roundtable discussions with teachers in the humanities, legislators, and other concerned citizens during critical periods of the 1975 session.

The Politics of Resource Use, sponsored by the MSU Department of Film and TV Production. TV presentation of the film "A Walk in the Shadow" which was funded in part by the MCH, followed by a series of interviews with humanists and individuals involved in resource-use decisions in Montana.

Private Rights and Public Choices: The Scientific and Technological Dimension, sponsored by Bozeman Friends of the History and Philosophy of Science. A series of lectures and discussions of the ethical, political, social and economic consequences of contemporary scientific developments.

Gifts and Matching

All projects funded by the MCH must be matched by an equal amount of non-federal funds. This match may be either in the form of in-kind service given a dollar value, hard cash, or a combination of the two.

The National Endowment for the Humanities has made gifts and matching funds available for projects sponsored by the MCH. This means that a cash gift which is donated to the MCH on behalf of an MCH-sponsored project may be matched by an equal amount of cash from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The bulk of the doubled gift can be added to a project's matching budget, once approved by the MCH and the NEH.

For example, the Hoerner-Waldorf Corporation recently gave a cash gift of \$250.00 to the Task Force on Institutions which sponsored the MCH-funded project "Us and Them: Mental Health Care in Montana." This gift will be used to pay for some of the expenses of producing the film on mental health care in Montana's institutions; it will be used as part of the match required for this grant; and it will be doubled by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The additional \$250.00 will also be used for some of the expenses incurred by the project.

Cash donations to the MCH and projects it sponsors are tax-exempt. However, cash gifts made by persons who will directly benefit from a project cannot be matched by the NEH.

In the past two months the Montana Committee for the Humanities has received generous gifts from the Hoerner-Waldorf Corporation of Missoula, the Montana Association of Churches, the History Department of the University of Montana, and Dr. Carl G. Merkel of New York.

Project directors are strongly urged to take advantage of this means of

increasing the funds available for their projects. Contact MCH director Margaret Kingsland for further information.

New Theme?

The MCH is now preparing its proposal for the coming year for submission to the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Committee would like to be advised about either retaining the present theme "Private Rights and Public Choices," or replacing or doing away with the theme altogether. Any comments, suggestions, and ideas on the subject are most welcome, as are other comments and suggestions about the Montana Committee for the Humanities. Please write or call.

Choosing a Topic

MCH encourages projects dealing with issues that humanities scholars can speak to as *humanities scholars*, such as:

- issues involving value choices, ethical judgments, or questions of rights or responsibilities
- issues which can be illuminated by providing historical background and analysis
- complex issues which can be clarified through the examination of key concepts
- issues which can usefully be compared with situations or events in other places, cultures, or periods of history
- issues which may be better understood by the comparison of alternative approaches to solutions.

Committee Notes

The Montana Committee for the Humanities is a group of fifteen citizens from across the state who serve in a voluntary capacity for 3-year terms. Last month businessman David Drum from Billings, Montana State University History Professor Pierce C. Mullen, University of Montana President Emeritus Robert Pantzer, University of Montana History Professor John Van de Wetering, and Carroll College Humanities Professor Joseph Ward completed their terms of membership. The MCH looks forward to the continued benefit of their advice and welcomes new committee members Montana State University Philosophy Professor Gordon Brittan, University of Montana Philosophy Professor Tom Huff, Carroll College President Francis Kerins, Billings attorney William Mather, and University of Montana Humanities Professor Maxine Van de Wetering.

Please Send More Information On:

- Summer Humanists in Residence
- Grant Applications
- List of MCH Films and Audio-Visual Selections
- The Project _____

Suggested Theme:

name

address

The Montana Committee for the Humanities

Roy Huffman, Chairman
Vice President for Research
Montana State University, Bozeman

Earl J. Barlow
Superintendent of Schools, Browning

Gordon Brittan
Professor of Philosophy
Montana State University, Bozeman

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Thomas P. Huff
Chairman, Philosophy Department
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Alma Jacobs
Montana State Librarian, Helena

Francis Kerins
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William S. Mather
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